

# Nkore language

**Nkore** (also called **Nkole**, **Nyankore**, **Nyankole**, **Orunyankore**, **Orunyankole**, **Runyankore** and **Runyankole**) is a Bantu language spoken by the Nkore ("Banyankore") and Hima peoples of south-western Uganda in the former province of Ankole.<sup>[4]</sup>

Runyankole is mainly spoken in the Mbarara, Bushenyi, Ntungamo, Kiruhura, Ibanda, Isingiro, and Rukungiri districts.

There is a brief description and teaching guide for this language, written by Charles V. Taylor in the 1950s, and an adequate dictionary in print. Whilst this language is spoken by almost all the Ugandans in the region, most also speak English, especially in the towns. (English is one of Uganda's two official languages, and the language taught in schools.)

Nkore is so similar to Kiga (84–94 percent lexical similarity<sup>[5]</sup>) that some argue they are dialects of the same language, a language called Nkore-Kiga by Taylor.<sup>[4]</sup>

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## Phonology

Runyankore has a five-vowel system: /a, e, i, o, u/.<sup>[6]</sup>

Nkore	
Runyankore	
Native to	Uganda
Native speakers	3.4 million (2014 census) <sup>[1]</sup>
Language family	Niger–Congo <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Volta-Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Benue–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bantoid<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Southern Bantoid<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Bantu<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Northeast Bantu<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Great Lakes Bantu<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Nyoro-Ganda<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><b>Nkore</b></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul></li></ul>
Standard forms	Runyakitara
Dialects	Hima
Language codes	
ISO 639-2	nyn ( <span>https://www.loc.gov/standards/iso639-2/php/langcodes_name.php?code_ID=337</span> )
ISO 639-3	nyn
Glottolog	nyan1307 ( <span>http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/nyan1307</span> ) <sup>[2]</sup>
Guthrie code	JE.13 <sup>[3]</sup>

## Consonants

		<u>Bilabial</u>	<u>Labiodental</u>	<u>Alveolar</u>	<u>Postalveolar</u>	<u>Palatal</u>	<u>Velar</u>	<u>Glottal</u>
<u>Stop</u>	<u>voiceless</u>	p		t			k	
	<u>voiced</u>	b		d			g	
<u>Affricate</u>	<u>voiceless</u>				tʃ			
	<u>voiced</u>				dʒ			
<u>Fricative</u>	<u>voiceless</u>		f	s	ʃ			
	<u>voiced</u>		v	z	ʒ			
<u>Nasal</u>		m		n		ɲ	ŋ	
<u>Trill</u>				r				

## Basic greetings

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The greeting *Agandi*, implying, "How are you?" but literally meaning "other news!", can be replied with *Ni marungi*, which literally means "good news!".

The proper greetings are *Oraire ota?* or *Osiibire ota?*, literally translated "How was your night?" and "How was your day?". "Good night" is *Oraare gye* and "Good day" is *Osiibe gye*.

Here are a few names one might use in a greeting:

- Madam – *Nyabo*
- Sir – *Sebo*
- Child – *omwana*
- Boy – *omwojo*
- Girl – *omwishiki*

## Food

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- Matooke or Bananas - *Ebitokye*
- Maize Meal or corn bread – *Obuhunga*
- Beans – *Ebihimba*
- Meat – *Enyama*
- Millet Bread – *Oburo*

## Other words and phrases

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- No: Ngaaha (ing-gah-ha) or Apaana (ah-pah-nah)
- Yes: Eego (egg-oh)
- Thank you: Webare (Way-ba-re)
- Thank you very much: Webare munonga (Way-ba-lay mu-non-ga)
- You're welcome (literally: Thank you for appreciating): Webare kusiima (way-ba-re koo-see-mah)
- I like/love you: Ninkukunda (nin-koo-coon-dah) or ninkukunda munonga (nin-koo-coon-dah moo-non-gah)

- My name is \_\_\_\_: Eizina ryangye ninye \_\_\_\_ (ey-zeen-ah riya-gye ni-nye\_\_\_\_) or ndi \_\_\_\_ (in-dee \_\_\_\_)
- I am from \_\_\_\_: Ninduga\_\_\_\_ (nin-doog-ah\_\_\_\_)
- It's how much shillings/money? Ni shiringi zingahi? (Knee shi-rin-gee zin-gah-hee) or ni sente zingahi?
- Good morning. How are you?

Oraire ota (orei-rotā) Replies: I'm fine Ndeire gye (ndei-re-jeh) or Ndyaho (indi-aho)

- Good morning. Did you sleep well?

Oraire gye? (orei-reh-jeh) Reply: Yes, fine, okay Kare (Kar-eh)

- Good afternoon. How are you spending your day?

Osiibire ota (o-see-bee-rotā) Replies: Nsiibire gye (insi-bi-reje)

- You are spending your day well?

Osiibire gye (Osi birejge) Replies: Yes- Eego (egg-oh) or nsiibire gye

- Good afternoon. How has your day been?

Waasiiba ota (wasib-wota) Reply: Fine, good, I've spent it well – Naasiiba gye (nasi-baje)

- Good night: Oralegye

[7][8]

## See also

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- [Runyakitara language](#)

## References

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